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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

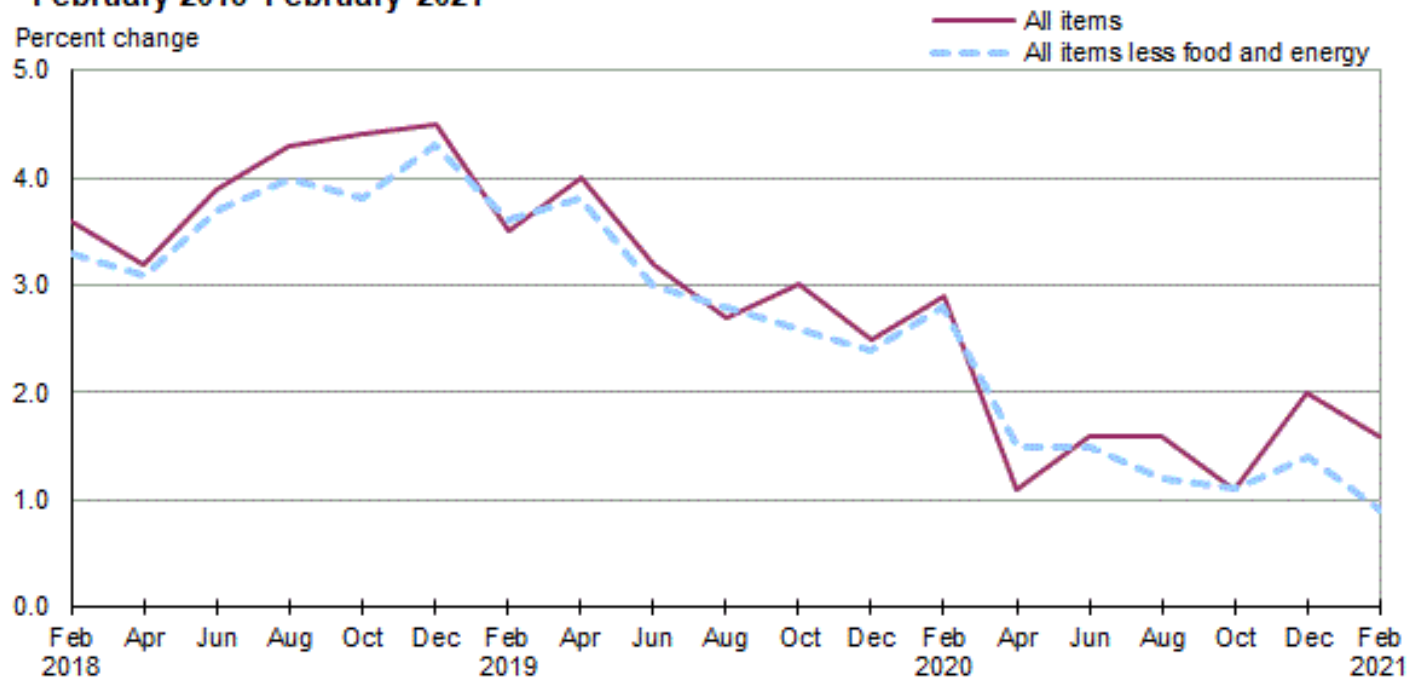
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — February 2021

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past two months, up 1.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent for the two months ending in February 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices rose 5.0 percent. Energy prices increased 3.8 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of electricity. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, February 2018–February 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.4 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 1.4 percent influenced by lower prices for dairy and related products (-4.9 percent) and fruits and vegetables (-2.5 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 5.0 percent. Prices for food at home rose 6.7 percent since a year ago, largely due to a price rise in meat, poultry, fish and eggs (16.2 percent) and fruits and vegetables (10.0 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 3.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.4 percent for the two months ending in February. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (6.8 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 2.4 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 1.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 3.8 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for electricity (5.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 11.4 percent, and prices for gasoline advanced 1.0 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (5.9 percent), medical care (1.8 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for alcoholic beverages (-6.0 percent), new and used vehicles (-1.3 percent), and education and communication (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included household furnishings and operations (7.1 percent) and shelter (0.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-10.9 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-2.8 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.8	3.4	1.4	3.6	0.5	3.5	0.9	2.9	0.5	1.6
April	1.1	3.8	0.8	3.2	1.2	4.0	-0.5	1.1		
June	0.3	3.5	0.9	3.9	0.2	3.2	0.7	1.6		
August	0.2	3.0	0.6	4.3	0.1	2.7	0.0	1.6		
October	0.6	2.7	0.7	4.4	1.0	3.0	0.5	1.1		
December	-0.1	2.9	0.1	4.5	-0.5	2.5	0.4	2.0		

The April 2021 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco area is scheduled to be released on May 12, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in February was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo Counties in the State of California.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	302.948	-	304.387	1.6	0.5	-
All items (1967=100)	931.345	-	935.771	-	-	-
Food and beverages	311.289	-	308.572	4.6	-0.9	-
Food	309.903	-	308.589	5.0	-0.4	-
Food at home	276.632	273.803	272.623	6.7	-1.4	-0.4
Cereals and bakery products	274.104	-	271.126	4.0	-1.1	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	302.923	-	301.538	16.2	-0.5	-
Dairy and related products	292.860	-	278.438	0.5	-4.9	-
Fruits and vegetables	380.780	-	371.388	10.0	-2.5	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	200.308	-	203.766	-0.8	1.7	-
Other food at home	224.729	-	220.791	2.2	-1.8	-
Food away from home	347.655	-	349.922	3.3	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages	331.788	-	311.778	0.3	-6.0	-
Housing	360.604	-	361.955	1.7	0.4	-
Shelter	408.547	408.446	409.850	0.9	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2)	468.851	467.942	468.807	-0.1	0.0	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	439.175	438.277	439.058	0.8	0.0	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	439.175	438.277	439.058	0.8	0.0	0.2
Fuels and utilities	448.817	-	455.265	6.3	1.4	-
Household energy	387.643	394.707	395.975	6.7	2.1	0.3
Energy services(2)	389.079	396.216	397.337	6.7	2.1	0.3
Electricity(2)	418.345	427.767	428.380	5.6	2.4	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	316.601	316.897	319.675	11.4	1.0	0.9
Household furnishings and operations	154.036	-	154.126	7.1	0.1	-
Apparel	99.570	-	105.422	-10.9	5.9	-
Transportation	201.420	-	204.673	-1.4	1.6	-
Private transportation	201.613	-	203.631	2.0	1.0	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	99.226	-	97.889	3.5	-1.3	-
New vehicles(1)	164.646	-	161.204	1.5	-2.1	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	270.081	-	269.617	8.8	-0.2	-
Motor fuel	237.489	246.145	253.600	1.0	6.8	3.0
Gasoline (all types)	236.514	245.221	252.663	1.0	6.8	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	235.524	244.642	251.951	1.1	7.0	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	225.011	231.076	237.199	0.5	5.4	2.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	227.645	234.479	242.198	1.0	6.4	3.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	521.248	-	528.598	-2.8	1.4	-
Medical care	545.016	-	555.065	1.7	1.8	-
Recreation(6)	125.834	-	126.052	5.5	0.2	-
Education and communication(6)	151.046	-	150.882	0.0	-0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,815.374	-	1,815.339	-0.9	0.0	-
Other goods and services	523.161	-	524.717	3.5	0.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	302.948	-	304.387	1.6	0.5	-
Commodities	198.670	-	199.185	2.4	0.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages	139.370	-	141.375	0.2	1.4	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.743	-	184.904	-0.8	3.4	-
Durables	100.055	-	98.949	1.4	-1.1	-
Services	389.878	-	392.055	1.3	0.6	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	292.990	-	294.117	1.6	0.4	-
All items less shelter.....	259.377	-	260.943	2.2	0.6	-
Commodities less food	147.395	-	148.669	0.2	0.9	-
Nondurables	246.720	-	248.289	2.6	0.6	-
Nondurables less food.....	190.577	-	194.803	-0.6	2.2	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	383.574	-	387.224	1.9	1.0	-
Services less medical care services.....	379.118	-	380.732	1.1	0.4	-
Energy	298.710	306.783	311.817	3.8	4.4	1.6
All items less energy	306.814	-	307.721	1.5	0.3	-
All items less food and energy	307.173	-	308.432	0.9	0.4	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.